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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,617	01/26/2004	Edward R. Rhoads	ITL.0241D1US (P7376D)	8924
21906	7590	02/04/2009	EXAMINER	
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C. 1616 S. VOSS ROAD, SUITE 750 HOUSTON, TX 77057-2631				LI, ZHUO H
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2185				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/04/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/764,617	RHOADS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ZHUO H. LI	2185	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 and 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-15 and 26-30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/20/2009 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. This Office action is in response to amendment filed 1/20/2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-15 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tallam (US PAT. 6,948,099).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claim 1, Tallam discloses a method of organizing stored information comprising partitioning on a non-volatile, reprogrammable semiconductor memory (14, figure 1 and col. 2 lines 28-44) into a plurality of partitions (20 and 22, figure 2 and col. 2 line 66 through col. 3 line 15), each having a defined address (col. 2 line 45 through col. 3 line 15 and col. 4 lines 59-67), and storing the defined address for one partition in another partition (col. 2 line 66 through col. 4 line 6 and col. 6 lines 24-38).

Regarding claim 2, Tallam discloses the method further including storing information about the number of partitions (col. 4 line 59 through col. 5 line 39).

Regarding claims 3-5, Tallam discloses the method further including storing a boot loader (102, figure 5), a file system (106, figure 5), and a kernel for an operating system (104, figure 5) in one of said partition (col. 4 line 59 through col. 5 line 18).

Regarding claim 6, Tallam discloses the method further including storing information in association with the addresses about whether or not an integrity check needs to be done on the data stored at association address (col. 4 lines 26-50).

Regarding claims 7-9, Tallam discloses the method further including storing, in association with the address of a partition, information about the type of information stored in the partition, and storing information about whether or not the information stored at given partition is a boot loader, a kernel or a file system, and storing information about the load address for said information in association with said address (col. 4 line 59 through col. 5 line 38, figure 5 and col. 8 lines 9-48).

Regarding claim 10, Tallam discloses a non-volatile, re-programmable semiconductor memory (14, figure 1 and col. 2 lines 36-44), comprising a plurality of addressable partitions, (20 and 22, figure 14), including a partition storing an operating system, i.e., primary operation system (22, figure 2), a storage location storing an address for one of said partitions in association with information about the information stored in said partition (20, figure 3, and col. 3 line 16 through col. 4 line 25).

Regarding claim 11, Tallam discloses a non-volatile, re-programmable semiconductor memory is a FLASH memory (col. 2 lines 36-44).

Regarding claims 12-15, Tallam discloses a non-volatile, re-programmable semiconductor memory wherein one of the said partitions stores a basic input/output system (32, figure 3), a file system (106, figure 5), a kernel for an operating system (104, figure 5), and a boot loader (102, figure 5).

Regarding claim 26, Tallam discloses a processor-based system (12, figure 6) comprising a processor (65, figure 6), a volatile memory (68, figure 6) coupled to said processor, and a re-programmable, non-volatile semiconductor memory (14 figure 6) coupled to said processor (col. 5 line 43 through col. 6 line 24), the semiconductor memory including a plurality of partitions (20 and 22, figure 2), one of said partitions storing an operating system (22, figure 2), and another of said partitions storing the address of the other partitions in association with information about what is stored in each of the partitions (figure 5 and col. 4 line 59 through col. 5 line 38).

Regarding claim 27, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 11.

Regarding claims 28-30, the limitations of the claims are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claims 12-25.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 1/20/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is noted that the submitted declaration filed 1/20/2009 is insufficient to show the claimed subject matter being either attributed to or derived from Applicants. Firstly, the declaration is improper to show that the claimed subject matter is attributed to Applicants since they did not jointly file the present application with Tallam's. Therefore, attribution is not germane to this case. Secondly, the declaration is insufficient to show that the invention was derived from Applicants since it fails to prove that Applicants invented the claimed subject

matter. Particularly, the submitted declaration merely provides a conclusory statement by Applicants' representative to suggest that the cited subject matter was invented by Applicants and not Tallam. We note however that such gratuitous statement, without any supporting evidence to show the actual descriptions or statements of the inventions that the representative received from each of the respective inventive entities before combining the inventions into one, is not persuasive. While the declarations and the exhibits are in the form of testimonial and corroborating evidence, arguments of counsel are not evidence. See, e.g., Meitzner v. Mindick, 549 F.2d 775,782 (CCPA 1977); In re Pearson, 494 F.2d 1399, 1405 (CCPA 1974). It follows that Applicants have not shown that the Examiner erred in finding that Tallam anticipates independent claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of independent claim 1 is maintained. Appellants did not provide separate arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1 through 15 and 26 through 30. Therefore, the claimed limitations are still being rejected by Tallam.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ZHUO H. LI whose telephone number is (571)272-4183. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 6:00am - 2:30pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sanjiv Shah can be reached on 571-272-4098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Zhuo H Li/
Examiner, Art Unit 2185

/Tuan V. Thai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2185